

risers to the level of bloodshed. We settle our differences at the ballot box, here in Congress, not with car bombs; through media exposure, not machete swipes. If one cannot see that continued civilization itself is in danger, I don't know what else can persuade you.

Twenty-six years ago last Friday, November 4, 1979, Islamic terrorists took hostages in Tehran. This is how some people in the world address disputes: They take hostages. They push old men in wheelchairs over ship rails into the sea, the Achille Lauro example. They behead little girls. They strap dynamite to their children and send these innocent children to detonate clusters of fellow innocent citizens. They bomb nightclubs, subways, pillars of commerce and symbols of freedom. As long as people reign who cannot live peacefully, the war on terror must press on for the safety of all of us.

#### FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, along with all 36 members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, I have a sign in front of my office that is updated daily to reflect America's national debt. Just 2 weeks ago, I was deeply dismayed to see that the national debt had reached \$8 trillion. That is \$27,000 for every man, woman and child in America. How did we dig ourselves into such a deep hole? The truth is the Republican leadership has created a credit card Congress that is recklessly selling out the future of America, our children and our grandchildren, and President Bush is the most fiscally irresponsible President in the history of America. On his watch, we have run up record deficits and added nearly \$2.5 trillion to our national debt. In just 5 years in office, President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign sources than all 42 previous Presidents combined. Put together, the first 42 American Presidents borrowed a total of \$1.01 trillion from other countries. President Bush has now borrowed \$1.05 trillion from overseas and he still has 3 years to go.

I know that my Republican colleagues are as ashamed as I am that the United States is forced to borrow over \$1 trillion from foreign nations to pay for our national priorities like reconstruction of the gulf coast and the war in Iraq. We owe it to the American people and future generations to roll up our sleeves and dig out of this mess now. So far, the Republican leadership has refused to reach across the aisle to fix this fiscal mess. The Republican reconciliation plan is a sham. It does nothing to fix the broken budget. In fact, it will make matters worse. By all

accounts, the current proposal would add billions to the deficit in order to finance more reckless tax cuts for the most privileged Americans.

Who in their right mind, I ask you, could look at an \$8 trillion debt and put forward a plan to make it bigger? It is time for a real strategy for fiscal responsibility. The budget process is broken. Anyone can see that. The Blue Dog Coalition has asked the President to convene an emergency bipartisan summit to address America's fiscal crisis. We have put forward a comprehensive 12-step plan to put America back on the path to fiscal responsibility. The Blue Dog 12-step plan is the only serious proposal on the table that would fix our Nation's budget woes and return America to fiscal solvency. Our plan is based on common sense, not party ideology. The Blue Dog 12-step plan includes both Democratic and Republican ideas. When it comes to fixing the budget, the American people deserve cooperation and not partisanship.

Our proposal includes commonsense reforms, such as reinstating the pay-as-you-go rules that we had here a few years ago and implementing discretionary spending caps. We have also urged for the establishment of a rainy day fund to cushion the financial blow of future national emergencies like we saw in the gulf coast recently. You just heard from my Blue Dog colleague, Mr. John Tanner from Tennessee, a leader in the fight for fiscal responsibility in Washington. He outlined for us all how bad the situation is. I strongly urge my colleagues in Congress to embrace real reform and to take immediate action to cure this national tragedy of the debt.

#### AVIAN INFLUENZA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the deadliest plague in human history was the influenza pandemic of 1918 which killed up to 100 million people around the world. While annual flu strains tend to spare young healthy adults, every few decades a strain arises that can kill people in the prime of life. In 1918, more than a quarter of all Americans fell ill. What started for millions around the globe as a runny nose and a sore throat developed into a gruesome, deadly virus. No war, no plague, no famine ever killed so many.

This year, brilliant medical detective work pieced together the genetic makeup of the 1918 virus. The origin was found to be avian influenza, the so-called bird flu.

The new mutant strain of bird flu spreading across Europe and Asia may turn out to be even deadlier than the 1918 virus. As we scramble to assemble plans and get vaccine, more birds infected and more human contact means more opportunity for the virus to mu-

tate, perhaps triggering this next human pandemic.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization consider another pandemic inevitable, whether triggered by this bird flu virus or the next.

The current proposed spending plan does finally address some measures to mediate the impact of future pandemics, but it overlooks the critical policy initiatives that could directly impact the threat at its source.

For example, avian influenza is not limited to Asia or Europe. There have been over a dozen outbreaks of low-grade avian influenza viruses in the United States just within the last 5 years. An outbreak of a high grade H5 virus in Pennsylvania in the eighties led to the death of more than 17 million birds. Nationwide surveys tracked the strains of that virus back to at least 48 live bird markets across five States. Each year more than 20 million birds of various species pass through at least 150 known storefront slaughter facilities in the northeast metropolitan areas alone, increasing the risk of human exposure and the persistence of these viruses. Most of these operations are not subjected to USDA food safety regulations. These live animal markets should be either eliminated or at a minimum brought within the USDA's existing food safety regulatory scheme.

The United Nations food and agriculture organization has implicated live animal transport as another prime culprit for the rapid spread of the virus across Southeast Asia. Yet transportation of birds reared for human consumption remains unregulated in much of the world and in the United States.

The cockfighting trade is another area under increasing scrutiny as a prime vehicle to spread the disease. We need a stronger Federal law against the transport of cockfighting birds across State and national borders. Gamecocks are not part of any testing program and there is a thriving trade in birds for use in this barbaric industry. The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2005 would increase penalties for violations of Federal animal fighting laws to help prevent illegal cockfighting. The Senate passed this bill unanimously in April, but the identical House bill has not yet been acted upon in the Judiciary Committee. The House and the Senate passed an identically worded felony cockfighting provision in the 2002 farm bill, but inexplicably this provision was gutted in conference. It is unconscionable that we would wait on enacting this felony provision. The House needs to act immediately to strengthen the law to diminish the risk of fighting birds as vectors for avian influenza.

The bird flu virus could also be imported to our shores via the trade in wild birds for pets. More than 400,000 live exotic birds are imported every year to the United States. The stress of confinement and long-distance transport critically weakens their immune